

## Article - Criminal Law

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§10–604.

- (a) A person may not:
  - (1) overdrive or overload an animal;
  - (2) deprive an animal of necessary sustenance;
  - (3) inflict unnecessary suffering or pain on an animal;
  - (4) cause, procure, or authorize an act prohibited under item (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection; or
  - (5) if the person has charge or custody of an animal, as owner or otherwise, unnecessarily fail to provide the animal with:
    - (i) nutritious food in sufficient quantity;
    - (ii) necessary veterinary care;
    - (iii) proper drink;
    - (iv) proper air;
    - (v) proper space;
    - (vi) proper shelter; or
    - (vii) proper protection from the weather.
- (b)
  - (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.
  - (2) As a condition of sentencing, the court may order a defendant convicted of violating this section to:
    - (i) participate in and pay for psychological counseling; and

(ii) pay, in addition to any other fines and costs, all reasonable costs incurred in removing, housing, treating, or euthanizing an animal confiscated from the defendant.

(3) As a condition of probation, the court may prohibit a defendant from owning, possessing, or residing with an animal.

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